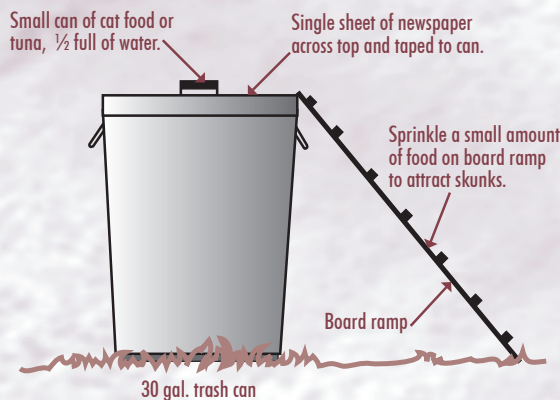


# Home-made Skunk Trap

Place can of food (½ cat food, ½ water) in center of newspaper. Sprinkle excess cat food up ramp leading to top of trash can. When the skunk eats from can of cat food the water will splash out, wetting the newspaper, and the skunk will fall through into the can. Carefully place the lid on the can and call Animal Control immediately.



## Disposition

After the problem animal is captured, Animal Control Services should be notified immediately by calling 1-800-472-5609 for removal.

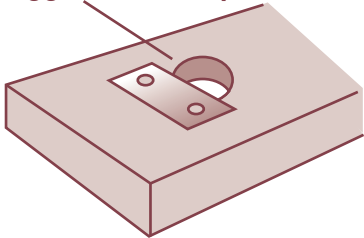
It should be noted that California law prohibits taking from the wild and holding in captivity any California wildlife, therefore these animals cannot be kept as pets.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

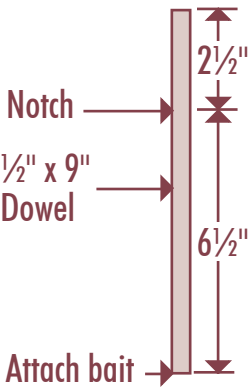


## Plans for a nuisance animal live trap

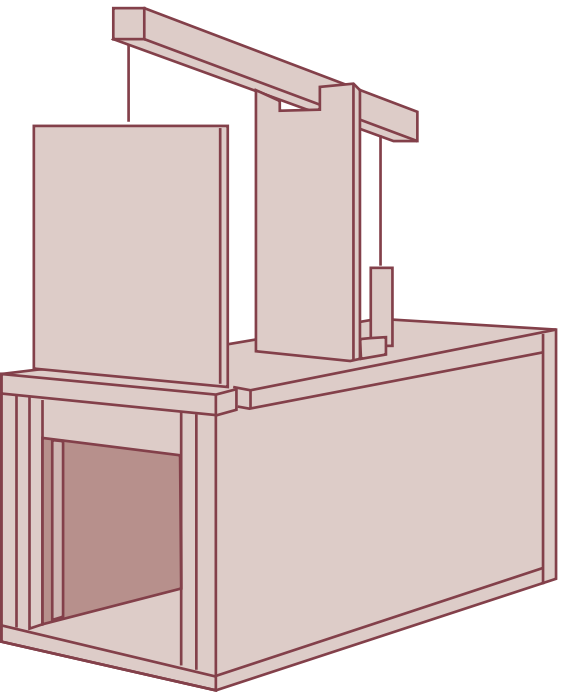
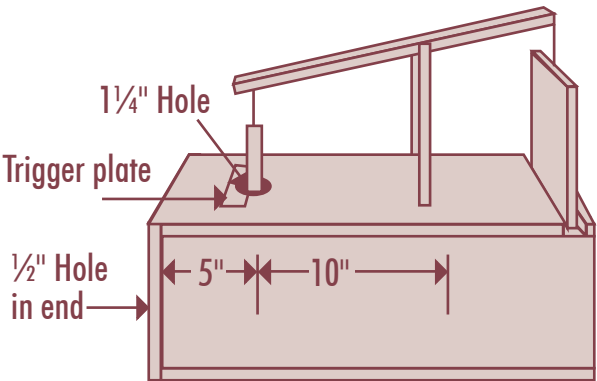
Trigger hole and plate



Side view

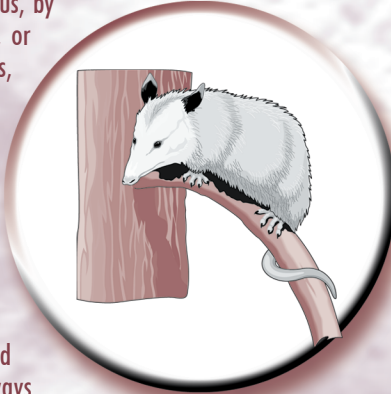


Trigger mechanism



When setting the live trap, attach a bait such as bacon or fish to that portion of the dowel that extends into the trap. Tie the bait securely with wire or string so the animal will have to pull hard enough to trip the trigger mechanism.

## Controlling Nuisance Skunks, Raccoons, & Opossums



Most wildlife species are interesting and enjoyable to have around. Occasionally though, one of them gets out of place and becomes a nuisance. Wild animals can become pests by damaging or eating something valuable to us, by getting in or under buildings, or as often is the case with skunks, by merely being present.

This publication is meant to be a general guide for assisting the public when wild animals become pests. The methods of control given may not always work because every situation is unique, and animal behavior is not always predictable. However, these control methods have worked in the past and are among the best available.



## What First?

Ask yourself, why do I have a wildlife problem? Does some situation exist that is encouraging animals to frequent this area? What is it? How can it be changed?

In most cases animals become a nuisance to us by some situation we have created, and most problems are associated with these situations.

## What attracts animals?

**1.** Animals consider a "hole" a natural home. This may be an open vent under our house allowing access to crawl space or holes under eaves allowing access to the attic or walls. Additionally, old buildings, woodpiles, brush piles and junk piles are all invitations from us to certain animals saying "move in."

**2.** Food! Over half of all problems with wildlife are food related. Leaving pet food outside within reach of wildlife, leaving garbage available, or raising gardens, chickens, ducks and fish without any protective barriers are common situations which we create that invite problems. Grubs and other insects in your lawn are food to animals. To reduce damage to lawns and golf courses, keep organic materials picked up and use soil insecticides to eliminate the food source that the animals dig for. Animals generally will not dig holes in a sod that is free from insects.



## What are the answers?

If you are providing a home, the answer is the same as you would use with any unwanted house guest: lock the door. If you are providing food, dry up the food supply.

If an animal is within a building, close up all openings except one. Then sprinkle a patch of flour or talcum powder around the opening and check for tracks after dark to see when the animal leaves. When the animal has left, check for any young and contact an exterminator service or Animal Control, then screen or in some other manner, seal the opening to prevent its return.

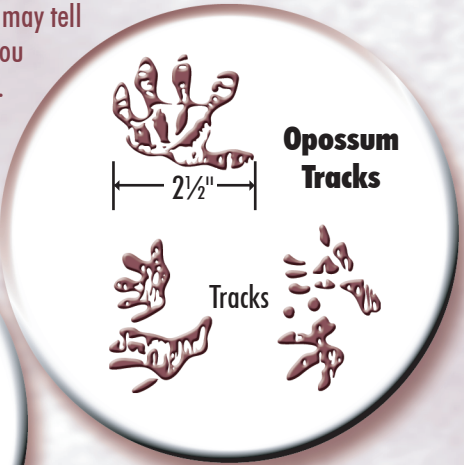
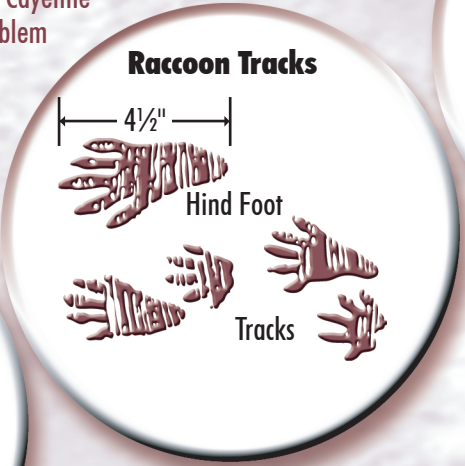
Putting a light in an area bothered by nuisance animals often has a repelling effect, especially on skunks, and may cause them to seek shelter elsewhere. Ordinary fencing will not keep skunks, raccoons, and opossums out of gardens or poultry lots. These animals, however, can be repelled by adding a single electrified wire strand to an existing fence, using a standard electric fence unit. Place the wire about 8 inches above ground on short stakes with insulators, or add a 4 to 6 inch outrider arm to existing posts 3 feet above the ground, then attach insulators and wire.

A wire mesh fence 6 feet high with 6 inches buried in the ground will prevent entry. Steel posts are best for this type of fence as raccoon and opossums will often climb wood posts.

## Repellents

Repellents for keeping these animals out of gardens are used with varied success. What works for one person may not work for another.

The following are home remedies that have been tried with some success: lighting the area with several blinking low wattage bulbs, creating noise with rattling pie pans or a transistor radio, tying the family dog in or close to the garden, and spreading crystals of naphthalene (moth flakes) in small gardens or enclosed areas, such as attics or under buildings. Hanging bars (or cut up bars hung in cheese cloth) of deodorant soap in or around the problem area has often been very effective. Cayenne pepper can be sprinkled on corn silk to repel problem animals.



## If the problem still exists, then:

The next step is to identify the animal. Most animals leave one or more calling cards such as tracks, tooth marks, droppings or smell. Often one is able to see or hear the animal. If you have trouble finding tracks, sprinkle flour or talcum powder on a smooth area near the problem site.

The tracks shown may tell you what action you want to take next.

## Trapping

These animals are easy to live trap. The live trap should be a minimum of 10" x 12" x 32" for raccoon, and 10" x 10" x 24" for skunks and opossums. These are the only type of traps that should be used around houses to prevent the taking of pets. When setting a live trap, be sure it is on level ground, so it is not wobbly when the animal enters. To reduce the possibility of the skunk releasing his spray, use a wooden box trap or a wire-cage style trap covered with burlap or black plastic. Live traps can be purchased at farm or hardware stores or built in a home shop using the attached plans.

## Baits

When placing bait in a live trap, it is necessary to place it behind or attach it to the trigger mechanism depending on how the trap door is activated. These animals are all attracted to fish, shellfish, fish-flavored cat food, chicken parts or bacon. In cases where pets are present, use either peanut butter or eggs as bait. This generally eliminates the problem of pets being attracted to the bait.